

fort was spent with her daughter Annie who had two sets of twins in two years.

Jane worked in the Primary and also the Relief Society in the various wards where the family lived.

THE ROOKER FAMILY LINE



Samuel McRae Rooker was born October 5, 1813 at Yorks, South Carolina. His father, Jennings Rooker, immigrated from Ireland. Samuel moved to Mississippi as a young man and married Amelia Woolridge Hundley (her second marriage) on August 5, 1835.

John Bunyon Rooker was born April 25, 1840 in Nuxubee County, Mississippi. A short time later the family moved to Texas after the Mexican-Texas war and took up land. As the tempest began to brew which precipitated the Civil War, Samuel and a few other close friends felt they wanted no part in the fighting; so they sold or gave away their land and slaves and left for the west, having heard of the settling of Oregon, Utah and California. They arrived on Cherry Creek, Colorado, and camped on what is now known as Denver the spring of 1858. They decided to stay for awhile as Mrs. Elinor Hundley was soon to have a baby. This son, named Jefferson Hundley, is claimed by the family to be the first white child born in the Denver vicinity.

Samuel and his son, John, then a young man of 18 years, built a log cabin and have been credited in official Denver history of building the first house in Denver, then known as Auraria. They were given 16 city lots for this honor.

John, a restless young man, engaged in a bit of poker playing during the summer, became involved in a fight over a card game and when the man, Jack O'Neil, came for John with a gun, John was ready and shot

and killed him. A trial was held and John was acquitted. After this shooting, the family left and returned to Texas the late summer or early fall of 1858. When leaving they traded their 16 city lots for some horses. They found matters worse than when they left so immediately returned to Denver. A party of six or eight families decided to go west again by wagon and during the early winter went over south pass in Colorado and arrived at a fort in Springville, Utah late in 1858. It was while at Springville that John met his wife-to-be, Mary Elizabeth Smith, born in Pottowettomy County, Iowa, October 6, 1851. They were married at Heber, March 7, 1866.

After checking the land settlement possibilities in the Heber Valley, Samuel decided to go there and was among the first settlers in the old Fort Heber settlement, building a cabin there either the summer of 1859 or spring of 1860. The family moved to Center Creek and Samuel died and was buried there November 16, 1894.

It is regrettable that so little was recorded of the life of Samuel Rooker in the Heber Valley. Even the date of his death has been lost but love for peace and harmony among men made him a good neighbor and a tireless worker for the welfare of his family.

John Rooker joined the Latter-day Saint Church, but was never active. His life was filled with disappointments for his family, as he was a constant user of liquor and spent a great deal of his time gambling. He was, however, an indulgent, kind-hearted and generous husband and father. Perhaps too much so for the good of himself and family. John B. Rooker died at Center while walking home from a visit to his daughter's, Verna R. Blake Allison, home on September 18, 1908. Six children were born of this marriage. John, James, Mary, Sarah, Verna and Thomas.

Samuel McRae Rooker

Emily W.

See #134 M p. 1082

F = Jennings Rooker
M = Rebecca Wood